



## CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2016

Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd,  
Baltimore, MD

**CEHPAC MEMBERS:** Dr. D. Abney (phone), Del. Angela Angel (staff), **DR. D. BISHAI**; V. Carrella; R. Vriend (Staff for Sen. Guzzone); Dr. B. Gitterman; Dr. M. Latshaw; J. Levy; Dr. E. Matsui (phone); A. Mezu (phone); Dr. C. Mitchell; B. Stockdale (phone); B. Thomas (phone)

**GUESTS:** Dr. K. Michaels – Healthy Playgrounds and Fields Coalition; C. Falk – Healthy Playgrounds and Fields Coalition; J. Bilowich – Maryland PIRG; Theodora Scarato - public

**STAFF:** R. HESS-MUTINDA, DHMH

### Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Mitchell opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions.

### CEHPAC MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION

Dr. Mitchell reviewed the membership requirements for CEHPAC; Three seats are expiring in SEptemeber – D. Bishai; E. Matsui and V. Carrella. Dr. Mitchell provided the website and application instructions for anyone wishing to apply for open seats; This information should be shared widely. The MDE Co-Chair must be provided by MDE Secretary.

### DISCUSSION

#### ➤ Update on workgroup review of Wireless in Schools

Dr. Megan Latshaw reviewed the current status of the workgroup. **Public Comment:** T. Scarato provided update on current research and will send along information to group in written form. M. Latshaw will share with CEHPAC final report and ask for final input and then share with public for public input. Approval will be given at September 2016 meeting. Dr. Matsui noted some concerns about study design and interpretation. There were additional comments from the public regarding international activity related to this issue.

#### ➤ Update on Synthetic Turf Fields

The 2015 Legislative report contains information on synthetic turf review (report distributed at meeting). Discussions continue with Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland Schools of Public Health, along with private stakeholder regarding this issue.

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### **2016/2017 Strategic Planning and Priorities**

- The focus of the next year will include: 1) fine tuning Mission statement; 2) Marcellus Shale; 3) Green Cleaning in non-public schools (child care); 4) Lead in water in schools; 5) Wi-Fi in schools; 6) Synthetic turf fields; 7) Legislative process; 8) Prioritize asthma focus.
- Asthma focus can include: indoor allergens in schools, attributable risks, public health and health care issues, management of asthma, prevention with green cleaning and IPM, along with addressing mold; Dr. Mitchell stated that the continuum of care must be addressed that includes home, school and healthcare system. Dr. Matsui noted that all of the possible asthma triggers, mouse allergen might be the most responsible for ED visits. Dr. Gitterman and Dr. Abney noted that this may be important as a strategy for the Council and that the costs to Medicaid of these visits (ED) may be one of the biggest costs for pediatric healthcare.
- V. Carella stated that Marcellus Shale and fracking must be addressed by providing input into MDE reports, public hearings and other publications. She also asked for feedback regarding the letter to the University of Maryland requested an update to the public health study. Dr. Mitchell indicated he would provide feedback at a subsequent meeting.

### **Wrap Up and Next Steps**

- An August meeting might be set-up depending on availability of members. This meeting would specifically address the Wi-Fi in Schools report.

### **Next CEHPAC meeting**

- September 19, 2016
- November 14, 2016